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Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 MMS-03 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /158 W
---------- 038643
R 260913Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1658
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0283

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR IO SO

SUBJ: SUPPORT OF US NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA

REF: A. STATE 028352; B. STATE 026644 (NOTAL);
C. MOGADISCIO 0279 (NOTAL)

1. DESPITE CONTINUING EMBASSY HOPES FOR SYMBOLICALLY SIGNIFICANT VISIT, PRESENT ANSWER TO REF A, QUESTION A, MUST BE THAT GSDR IS NOT YET RECEPTIVE TO U.S. NAVAL VISIT. THUS, ALTHOUGH SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON RECENTLY SAID THAT VFDR WOULD WELCOME U.S. NAVAL VISITS (REF B), SPECIFIC REQUEST BY EMBASSY MOGADISCIO ON FEB 14 RECEIVED USUAL SOMALI REPLY: "NOT CONVENIENT AT THIS TIME" (REF C).

2. REF A, OTHER QUESTIONS:
B. OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING CLEARANCES: VERY UNLIKELY FOR NORMAL OPERATIONAL SUPPORT. DIFFICULT, BUT PERHAPS POSSIBLE FOR EMERGENCY MEDEVAC.

C. IF NAVAL VISIT ALLOWED, EXPERIENCE OF FRENCH FRIGATE IN 1972 SUGGESTS SHORE LEAVE WOULD BE PERMITTED IN UNIFORM WITHOUT LIMITATIONS. (UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS, EMBASSY WOULD RECONFIDENTIAL
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COMMEND SHORE LEAVE BE RESTRICTED TO DAYLIGHT HOURS.)
D. NO.

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E. IF VISIT PERMITTED, WE WOULD EXPECT SOMALI NAVAL AND POLICE AUTHORITIES TO BE MOST COOPERATIVE. HOWEVER, SOME POLICE FUNCTIONS IN SOMALIA ARE ASSUMED BY RED-GUARD-TYPE CIVILIAN MILITIA ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD NOT BE COOPERATIVE AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT RECOGNIZE AND U.S. MILITARY POLICE FUNCTION.

F. YES, SO LONG AS THERE ANY CONTINUING ARAB EMBARGO ON OIL SHIPMENTS TO U.S. BOTH POL FIRMS HERE ARE GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND SUPPLIED BY SOVIETS.

G. SOMALIA IS SENSITIVE TO PUBLIC POSITIONS AND STATEMENTS ON GREAT POWER RIVALRIES AND INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE PUT FORWARD BY UAR, TANZANIA, OAU, AND FELLOW MEMBERS OF ARAB LEAGUE. DEGREE OF SOVIET PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOSTILITY TOWARD U.S. INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL PRESENCE WILL BE IMPORTANT FACTOR. RESIDUE OF SUSPICION REMAINS CONCERNING U.S. INTENTIONS TOWARD SOMALIA, PRIMARILY GENERATED BY OUR SUPPORT OF ETHIOPIA AND U.S. ASSISTANCE TO AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH PREDECESSOR CIVILIAN REGIME HERE. HOWEVER, GSDR ALSO INTERESTED IN PREVENTING SOVIETS FROM EXERCISING OVERWHELMING POWER AND INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA AND MIGHT ACCEPT VISIT AS SYMBOL SOMALIA'S "INDEPENDENCE". GSDR WOULD WELCOME CASH SPENT BY SHIPS AND SAILORS FOR PROVISIONS AND SHORE LEAVE/TOURISM.

H. JOINT EXERCISES ARE CLEARLY NOT IN POSSIBLE SCENARIO HERE, AND WE KNOW OF NO SPECIFIC INDUCEMENTS WHICH MIGHT TIP GSDR ATTITUDE ON VISIT IN GENERAL. LOBBYING FOR VISIT IN MOGADISCIO BY SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON MIGHT HELP. SOMALI RECEPTIVITY WOULD PROBABLY BE INCREASED AS PUBLIC REACTION TO DIEGO GARCIA SUBSIDES, AS PROGRESS CONTINUES TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PEACE, THANKS TO U.S. EFFORTS, AND AS U.S. RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA'S ARAB FRIENDS IMPROVES.

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